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Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT O 01831 291954Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCA-01 ONY-00 ARAE-00 /016 W
----------129789 291956Z /73
P R 291820Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 881
INFO AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

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FOR SCA AND ARA/MGT ONLY FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CGEN
SUBJECT: PLANS FOR 1977 CONSULAR CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 149719

1. HOTEL, CONFERENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES IN PORT OF SPAIN WOULD ALL BE QUITE FELICITOUS FOR PROPOSED CONSUALR CONFERENCE. HOWEVER, CHANCERY MODIFICATIONS WILL BE IN FULL SWING IN SEPTEMBER AND NEW CONSULAR SECTION FACILITIES AND PROCEDURES PROJECTED BY CAT TEAM WILL NOT YET BE OPERATIONAL. ADVANTAGE OF SELECTION OF PORT OF SPAIN THIS YEAR WOULD THEREFORE APPEAR TO BE NEGATED, SINCE WE WILL SIMPLY NOT HAVE FACILITIES EITHER FOR DEMONSTRATION OR CRITIQUE. EMBASSY GLAD TO HOST CONSULAR CONFERENCE IN PORT OF SPAIN, BUT SUGGEST THAT WE INSTEAD BE CONSIDERED AS HOST FOR 1978 CONFERENCE WHEN DEMONSTRATION FACTOR IN RELATION TO CAT TEAM RESULTS CAN BE MANIFEST.

2. THE ABOVE EVALUATION IS BASED UPON REALITY THAT MAJOR ELECTRICAL REWIRING OF CHANCERY WILL NOT BE COMPLETED UNTIL MID-AUGUST, AVLOS WILL BARELY BE OPERATIONAL BY SEPTEMBER, IF THEN, AND INTERNAL RE-
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PARTITIONING, ETC. CANNOT GET UNDERWAY UNTIL LATE AUGUST, WITH PROBABLE COMPLETION AS LATE AS OCTOBER. CONSULAR SECTION OF EMBASSY WILL THUS BE WORKING UNDER EXTREMELY RESTRICTED CONDITIONS IN MIDST OF CARPENTERS IN MOST CHAOTIC CONSTRUCTION PHASE AT TIME OF 1977 CONFERENCE. WE FEEL WE COULD OFFER LITTLE IN WAY OF USEFUL FACILITY OR PROCEDURE DEMONSTRATION AT THAT TIME.

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3. SPECIFIC REPLIES TO QUESTIONS IN PARAGRAPH FOUR
OF REFTEL FOLLOW:

(A) SEE PARAGRAPHS ONE AND TWO ABOVE.

(B) WE PROPOSE PORT OF SPAIN BE CONSIDERED AS
SITE FOR 1978 CONFERENCE. INVEVITABLE DELAYS IN LOCAL
CONSTRUCTION WORK CAUSE US TO HESITATE TO COMMIT
OURSELVES TO FACILITY COMPLETION IN TIME FOR SCHEDULING
THE 1977 MEETING HERE LATER (OCTOBER FOR EXAMPLE).

(C) THERE ARE NO POLITICAL OR PUBLIC RELATIONS
PROBLEMS ANTICIPATED WITH REGARD TO HOLDING A CONSULAR
CONFERENCE HERE. WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO GENERATE POSITIVE
PUBLICITY.

(D) SECURITY DOES NOT POSE A PROBLEM.

(E) CONFERENCE FACILITIES CAN EASILY BE PROVIDED
AT THE HILTON HOTEL AND POST CAN HANDLE ADMINISTRATIVE
SERVICES WITHOUT DIFFICULTY. CONSULAR FACILITIES AT
CHANCERY WILL BE UNDERGOING RECONSTRUCTION AND WILL
ESSENTIALLY BE UNAVAILABLE AT TIME OF 1977 CONFERENCE,
HOWEVER.

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(F) ADEQUATE HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS ARE AVAILABLE.
DAILY RATE FOR SINGLE WITH BATH IS 28.00 US DOLLARS.

4. REQUEST ARA/MGT (GERSHENSON) SHARE THIS MESSAGE WITH
AMBASSADOR FOX AND ALSO OBTAIN HIS VIEWS.
RICH

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Message Attributes

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